



**Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**

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RELAY MISSOURI for Hearing and Speech Impaired 1-800-735-2966 VOICE 1-800-735-2466

**Julia M. Eckstein**  
Director



**Matt Blunt**  
Governor

June 30, 2006

Dear Provider:

Thanks to all Adult Head Injury (AHI) Providers that attended the AHI Provider meeting held in May 2006. The large number in attendance is indicative of strong provider dedication to serving Missourians with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Provider commitment to ensuring the delivery of quality services is essential in helping program participants achieve their goals.

The following is an update on the latest changes within the Bureau of Special Health Care Needs (BSHCN), AHI Program.

**Staff Changes**

Eileen Deaver is the newest Service Coordinator to join the AHI Program Service Coordinator team. Eileen is an employee of The Curators of the University of Missouri and started to work on May 24, 2006. Eileen replaces the position held by Jill Franklin and will service the South Central region of the state. Eileen has a Master of Arts in counseling with a Certification in Marital and Family Therapy. Eileen has held previous positions coordinating services, and most recently worked in an inpatient psychiatric unit gaining the experience of caring for individuals with TBI.

Karen Battjes has joined the BSHCN leadership team as the Administration and Operations Coordinator, effective April 2006. Karen has extensive experience in the field of community and public mental health. In previous positions with the Department of Mental Health, Karen has worked collaboratively with the AHI Program.

**AHI Program Provider Manual**

The updated Provider manual (Revised July 2006) will be available on the Provider secure website July 1, 2006. The major changes effective July 1, 2006, include:

- Reimbursement for selected services has increased to remain equitable with the same or similar services reimbursed by other state agencies (see enclosed reimbursement schedule).
- Limits on Transitional Home and Community Support training (TH&CS) services are in place. Participants are eligible for a maximum of 1500 hours of TH&CS services, lifetime. Participants who have reached this maximum level of service as of July 1, 2006, are eligible for continued services until December 31, 2006, to allow for adequate transition time. While service limits are not always ideal for each participant, service limitations promote a more equitable distribution of resources between participants in a program with limited resources. Using past participant's data, the service limitations were established in an attempt to make the limits reasonable.
- The AHI Program Prior Authorizations are due to the Service Coordinator by close of business on the 10<sup>th</sup> calendar day of each month. It is imperative that the Prior Authorizations are received in a timely manner in order for the Providers to receive notification of authorized services before the date the services are to begin. Prior authorizations may be submitted electronically to the Provider's Service Coordinator. Within the next several months, this form will be upgraded to be user friendly for electronic completion.

[www.dhss.mo.gov](http://www.dhss.mo.gov)

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- As explained at the Provider meeting, the new Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Treatment Plan and Provider Monthly Progress Report form becomes effective July 1, 2006. The Treatment Plan/Monthly Progress report for all participants should be transitioned to this new format for the Prior Authorizations submitted in September 2006. The new form and instructions are found in the manual. Please give any feedback about the efficiency and effectiveness of this new form to the AHI Program Service Coordinators.

### **Waiting List**

There are currently 83 participants awaiting rehabilitative services through the AHI Program. As soon as funds are available, the participants will be approved for the appropriate services.

### **HRSA TBI Grant Activities**

The DHSS did receive notice of a grant award from the Health Resources and Services Administration for a three year TBI Grant beginning April 1, 2006.

The major activities and supported events of the proposed grant for year one are:

- Completion of a statewide Action Plan for traumatic brain injuries utilizing the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council and other Missouri stakeholders (building from the Needs Assessment);
- Expansion of the Early Referral Program into Community Health Center; and
- Support of the annual Brain Injury Association conference.

Once again, the commitment of the Providers to provide quality services for participants with TBI is greatly appreciated by the AHI Program. Please feel free to contact the AHI Program at (573) 751-6246 for any questions or assistance.

Sincerely,

Lori Brenneke, Manager  
Adult Head Injury Program  
Bureau of Special Health Care Needs

LB:lsp

Enclosures

c: Gary Harbison  
Karen Battjes  
Service Coordinators